CAUSES AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THE MIDDLE EAST TERRORISM

BY

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CAUSES AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THE MIDDLE EAST TERRORISM

by

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ABSTRACT

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Terrorism has become a major security issue and world problem. The focus of this research paper will be on the roots of terrorism and what I believe are the causes of terrorism. I will attempt to analyze the causes of terrorism in general and, specifically, the causes of terrorism in the Middle East. One aspect of the Mideast region is the relationship between terrorism and armed struggle to liberate the land. In this regard, I will examine how others define terrorism. I will try to identify possible solutions for dealing with terrorism in the Middle East. In addition, I will try to show how the return to morality and value may be one of the solutions to eliminate terrorism. I will also analyze how education may provide a solution to preventing the use of terrorism. In this regard, I will try to explain how solving the Middle East conflict can help to enhance stability in the region.

In the end I will try to explain how I see the causes of terrorism, and what I think are the best solutions.

CAUSES AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THE MIDDLE EAST TERRORISM.

Violence and aggression appear in the behavior of people due to many motivating factors. Aggressive behaviors and violence have been identified in all ages. For example, one of the very first images of violence in mankind was between Adam's sons - peace be upon them - when God accepted one and rejected the other. The anger grew in the rejected son and he killed his brother. Aggressive behavior is what a person or group does to harm itself, others or both. An individual's initial upbringing plays a major role in establishing such aggressive behavior. This behavior may be taught or innate in an individual's character, and may grow and become evident when an individual reaches adolescence.

Destructive behavior begins in early age in the form of destruction of property, non-response to societal demands, and selfish acts. These attitudes become more dangerous when the behavior of a group of like-minded individuals acts together against social norms. These individuals feel satisfaction when these acts against society result in affecting the family, society, state(s), and the world at large.

The causes of violence, terrorism and extremism are diverse; sometimes all of these diverse elements combine with one another. Violence, terrorism and extremism may emerge in a single individual or a group. The emergence of violence, terrorism and extremism, in turn, may have a destabilizing effect on the community's sense of psychological safety, which is one of the most important needs of to all mankind.

Possessing a comprehensive in-depth knowledge of the psychological, social, and intellectual causes and the effects of violence and extremism is the key to understanding and thus defeating terrorism in the long run. It is a fact that terrorism has

become a widespread phenomenon in the world. Maintaining the safety and the security of people and communities is a costly and constant problem for every nation.¹ The form of terrorism practiced today emerged following the First World War and continued through the Second World War to present day. With the beginning of the state of Israel a series of wars and acts of violence started between Arabs and Israelis. ²

Islam is based on compassion, justice, love, and freedom. The Islamic religion is against any unacceptable social behavior, and in conjunction with the government Islam promotes the rule of God's law. Additionally, Islam forbids acts of injustice against its followers and corruption in the country. There is no doubt that the circumstances surrounding today's terrorist movements and the emergence of violence in Islamic societies in particular creates an unhealthy and dangerous environment. Islamic society deplores violence, extremism, and terrorist acts. To deter or eliminate these phenomena calls for cooperation throughout the middle-eastern countries, and terrorism must be attacked at its roots. It is essential to understand the various causes of terrorism in order to eliminate its manifestations. ³

Nature of Terrorism

The use of political, religious, and economic means to carry out terrorist acts must be considered at all levels, as "political violence" is used in order to achieve "political goals" or "cultural violence" is used to reach cultural and social goals. For example, many believe cultural wars have been waged against the Arabian and Islamic world in recent years with the aim of stamping out everything that has to do with Arab and Islamic culture or identity. Whether real or perceived, this threat has led to an increase in terrorist activities. This is especially true where occupation by western nations of

Arab lands is perceived to be an attack against Islam. Such attacks occur on a cultural level and through the media. This is one of the aspects of organized cultural terrorism seen to be inflicted by another culture.

Means of Terrorism

There are three mechanisms of terrorism: individual, group and state terrorism. Individual terrorism in a society is due to feelings of injustice, oppression or as a reaction to an oppressive dictator. Group terrorism is practiced by organizations that have an agenda and extremist ideologies; this kind of organization is most common in the Middle East. The other means of terrorism is state terrorism which utilizes terrorist tactics on another sovereign state and ethnic or religious groups. States may inflict these acts on ethnic or religious groups within their borders or across borders.

Definitions of Terrorism

Terrorism can be defined as the use of either organized or random violence against innocent people in order to intimidate them for political goals or other reasons. The concept of terrorism, which has been misused and transferred to the current international political field, is deeply rooted and more complicated, especially when related to Arabian or Islamic issues. That said, several current definitions of terrorism follow:

1. Department of Defense Definition of Terrorism:

The calculated use of unlawful violence or threat of unlawful violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological.⁴

2. The FBI Defines Terrorism as:

The unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a Government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.⁵

3. Definition from the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism:

Any act or threat of violence, whatever its motives or purposes, that occurs in the advancement of an individual or collective criminal agenda and seeking to sow panic among people, causing fear by harming them, or placing their lives, liberty or security in danger, or seeking to cause damage to the environment or to public or private installations or property or to occupying or seizing them, or seeking to jeopardize a national resources.⁶

4. Department of State Definition:

Premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience.⁷

Causes of Terrorism

Given the complex nature and the various means and definitions of terrorism, let us examine the numerous causes of terrorism in the Middle East.

Intellectual Causes of Terrorism:

The suffering of the Islamic world today results from a sharp ideological division between the various trends in Islam. The reasons for this suffering and what causes the

problems and divisions is due to the religious ignorance and straying away from directives of Islam. The most prominent current divisions are based on:

a. The secular trend, which calls for the building of life on the basis of secular ideologies without religion, traditions, customs and social legacies. This trend views religion as impeding the way of progress and the movement towards a modern civilization.

b. The religious extremist trend is to oppose modern civilization and everything related to its progress. The religious extremist views modern civilization not only as a corruption of ethics, but as a discord in families and social relations. Extremists believe that modern society and secular proponents disregard religious and social values. There have been violent acts of terrorist bombings in recent years in the Arab and Islamic countries that have been linked in one way or another to the religious extremist trend. ⁸

Therefore, each trend rejects the views and thoughts of the other. Each side is not willing to either scrutinize or evaluate the views of the other side, nor does either side try to understand those opposite views on any level. If both sides could understand what the underlying principles are, they could compare them and build upon and combine those assets, principles, and common factors which will benefit all.⁹

A second intellectual root has been a distortion of the Islamic and Muslim image.

The Islamic religion is a religion of justice, dignity, tolerance, moderation and wisdom and the care and prevention of evils. The actions of Muslim people, both good and bad, are often attributed to the religion itself. When extremist actions such as car bombings are attributed to the Muslim religion, people outside of the Islamic world view this in a

way that destroys the Islamic image. Such actions do not reflect the true meaning, teaching and beliefs of Islam, which never teaches or promotes extremist actions. The religious extremism in the modern era distorts the Islamic image, leading some people to start challenging the faith and others to act against Islam.¹⁰

Researchers who have studied the composition of the terrorist behavior of extremist organizations have revealed that terrorists refuse to see the reality and seek to fight for principles and beliefs. Researchers have found that the wise and rational person does not address issues through murder, destruction or terrorist actions, but utilizes proper thought and legitimate methods when dealing with issues. Therefore, it is necessary to protect the minds and beliefs of true Muslims and not let their thoughts be polluted by extremists. This is an essential element in keeping Muslim societies away from this dangerous extremist trend.

As a result of the many terrorist operations targeted at Western interests in both Islamic and non-Islamic countries, the West stands guard against the Muslim world. The threats to the West on behalf of persons claiming to be true Muslims or who say they are defending Islam results in an intellectual imbalance among some religious groups that believe in the defense of Islam and Jihad in the name of the religion.¹¹

Third, there is a lack of critical thinking and constructive dialogue between educators, educational institutions and the media. This dialogue could create the needed critical thinking and enrich the minds of the people by utilizing a scientific approach to important issues based on an intellectual foundation. Furthermore, there is a need to change the current educational system that solely relies on memorization of study materials in such a rigid process that students do not learn how to think openly

about important issues. The media also needs to change. The current media in many Arab counties support violence and this affects the minds of youths in these countries. In order to stop terrorism and violence, the media need to change their current programming to help individuals open their minds to fair and unbiased information.

Lastly, while the vast majority of Imams (preachers) teach the true meanings of Islam, there are still numerous individuals who provide the wrong message. These Imams claim they posses the true knowledge and doctrine of the religion, but in reality they present a misinterpretation of the Islam religion to their followers. They teach based on their own personal beliefs, and not based on the rule, values and principles of Islam. All Muslims need to listen to the teachings of true Islamic scholars who are qualified to spread the word of God.¹²

Economic Causes of Terrorism

The shifting global economy greatly impacts the poorest communities and is one of the most important reasons for the growth of terrorism in the world. The globalization that has swept over the world in recent years and will continue into the future promises to create more economic crises in developing regions and continues to impact poor communities. This impact increases the gap between rich and poor nations. Some social analysts believe this widening gap between social classes will increase the importance and influence of businessmen and decrease the influence and the role of politicians. Additionally, analysts believe that this gap and the reaction to it will have a serious negative economic impact on globalization, increasing the discontent in poor communities. Terrorists will exploit technology now and in the future by utilizing it to transfer funds to finance their activities, spread their ideologies, and provide instructions

to their operatives. This utilization of technology results in activities that harm society or in personal self interest instead of enhancing the values and ethics that govern these societies.

The economic causes of terrorism, violence and extremism at the global level include:

a. the inability, due to lack of serious international cooperation by the members of the United Nations to resolve problems of economic and social development (this problem could be addressed by fostering the growth of the middle class, which in turn would reduce the abysmal gap between rich and poor nations and achieve a better standard of living for the vast majority of people with dignity and honor).¹³

b. the inability of nations and organizations to resolve serious differences with regard to a number of international problems, such as land despoliation, looting, oppression, social upheaval in many nations throughout the world.¹⁴

Political Causes of Terrorism

Two phenomena help explain the political motivation behind international terrorism. First, there is a contradiction between the international political system's charters (e.g., the UN Charter) which are based on values and ideals, and what is reflected in the actual behaviors of those actors in the system. These contradicting behaviors have led to the general abrogation of those espoused values and ideals. This contradiction has led to the emergence of international terrorism as a vibrant loud protest against this glaring contradiction between words and deeds.

Second, there is a clear lack of ability by the international community to respond to and stop irregularities, human rights violations, and other threats to security. The use

of international sanctions and other deterrents against such violations have primarily been ineffective. The inability of the international system to address such concerns opens a wide door to international terrorism. This open door allows terrorist organizations to recruit members, hired professional mercenaries and others who are seduced by their religious, political or ideological beliefs. Leaders of these groups encourage their followers to ignore international law, assault state sovereignty, and offend rights and legitimate interests by methods condemned by international norms and ethics, for example, through threats, defamation, extortion, murder, hijacking and hostage taking of innocent unarmed civilians. This chaos and the inability of the international community to resolve issues contribute to this international disaster.¹⁵

Social Causes of Terrorism, Violence and Extremism

Many of the Islamic countries do not follow the original Islamic rules. God created the creatures to worship him and instructed the followers to be faithful to him. It is the duty of all Muslims to recognize God and his law. When studying the history of extremist movements in many Arab countries, social scholars have attributed this trend to the incorporation of secular laws that are not based on or congruent with Islamic religion rules. This deviation breeds instability and fuels the extremist ideology.¹⁶

This ideological division has led to many problems in the Islamic world. The Prophet Mohammed gave his holy book to the people and his word was to be followed without deviation. Through the years people have deviated from the strict word of the holy book by interpreting it in many different ways and establishing many different religious groups. These varying interpretations evolved into different religious

ideologies leading to the modern era of a splintered Islamic religion. This has led to the creation of extremist movements.

There is an imbalance in the relationship between the ruler and the citizens. The ideal social system is based on a system of good governance which already exists in the tenets of the Islamic religion. Historically, the Islamic holy book dictates the relationship between the ruler and the people, explains the rights and duties of each party, and seeks to provide good governance to all. The current imbalance has led to instability and the rise of terrorism through Islamic world.

The loyalty and spirit of the Islamic world over the past few decades has dramatically declined. This spirit is necessary for individuals to live a good social life. It is essential in the Islamic community for the individual to place the needs of the community before one's self. If everyone works constantly for personal self interests and disregards the feelings and rights of others, the individual and the community will suffer. Therefore, true Islamic tenets focus upon community and group interest in the relationship between the individual and the community and consider them almost the same body. Individuals who try to cause division in communities in the past were punished, but today they are rarely punished due to a lack of true Islamic practice.

Family and social disintegration have become an international phenomenon leading to many negative impacts. These negative impacts have been observed in the manners of children starting at an early age and are linked to bad environments, which lack the proper oversight and guidance required to raise children to be responsible adults. This environment deprives children of their social needs and drives them to be

ruthless in dealing with others, open to manipulation by bad groups, more rebellious in nature, defying laws, and displaying an indifference to society.¹⁷

Psychological Causes of Terrorism, Violence and Extremism

There are numerous of psychological reasons leading to violence, terrorism and extremism that can be put into the following categories. First, there are inherent destructive psychological motivations. Some psychologists believe that there is an inherent destructive tendency which has been rooted in man since God created him. Psychologists believe there is a need for energy to be discharged through aggressive behaviors. These behaviors in some have manifested the need to destroy one's self or show aggression to others.¹⁸

Second, the lack of self-control in individuals leads one to be manipulated and follow undesirable actions, ideologies, and leaders. Individuals who are manipulated may believe they are a symbol of strength, freedom and the ideals. This personality trait in individuals may come from a feeling of inadequacy, being exposed to hard treatment from parents or other family members, not realizing their potential or dreams, or a lack of being taken care by family or others in the community. Some of those people have tendencies and motivations of aggression manifested inside themselves. Most individual are able to control this aggression, but if the right opportunity or circumstances arises in their lives, these aggressive tendencies may no longer be controlled and cause great impact and damage to themselves or society. According to psychological studies parental behavior had a great psychological impact on the personalities of there children who grew up to be extremists. Children of parents who exhibited anti-social behavior, were addicted to alcohol or drugs, abandoned their children, failed to supervise their

children, split up the family through divorce, or were not emotionally involve with their children tend to grow up and exhibit those same traits.¹⁹

Third, some individuals become frustrated when they are unable to achieve their goals, sense of belonging, their desires or position in life. This frustration leads to depression or low self worth in many young people. Young people who are depressed or have a low self worth are easily manipulated to join terrorist groups to gain self worth and a sense of belonging. These individuals can show strong aggressive behaviors and may take it to the extreme through self sacrifice in the form of a suicide bomber or other aggressive acts against society.

Fourth, megalomania is a mental disease where an individual is delusional in his belief about his own greatness and total disregard for human life. This delusion is not supported by any logic or reality. Adolf Hitler was a clear example of this character trait in his rise to power, the extermination of millions of Jews, gypsies, and other groups, and the administration of the war against his enemies. He played god in his plan to kill all people he deemed below the Aryan race. He overestimated the ability of his army and its efficiency in the conduct of World War II. Both of these acts led to the widespread destruction of his nation, the lost lives, and the division of Germany.²⁰

Fifth, the split personality is one of psychological factors in the recent emergence of violence, terrorism and extremism. This is the case of a person who is able to satisfactorily separate himself from facts, mistakenly underestimating conditions, and is devoid of feelings. If a leader of a country has this type of personality, he will create great harm for the people, distort political factors and facts, and will care more about self than the destruction of his country or his people.²¹

Educational Causes of Violence, Terrorism and Extremism

Although the educational factors are not direct causes of terrorism, the shortcomings and negative aspects in current educational systems and curricula could lead to the emergence of terrorism in some Muslim countries. The educational causes of terrorism include several factors.

First, there is a lack of correct religious materials in the curricula of primary school and even at the university level in most Islamic countries. What is taught in the education curricula in relation to Islam does not enable students to understand the real Islam. Students need to know what is necessary about the Islamic religious decisions. Schools are not responding to the needs of students in reaching out to them in matters of religion and enlightening thoughts including knowledge of the challenges in this era. This has led to a lack of religious awareness in general, that will have a negative impact on the behavior of individuals and their attitudes.²²

Second, the curriculum does not focus enough on highlighting the Islamic religion ethics, the call for compassion, tolerance, cooperation, and respect for Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Islam is a religion of peace, justice and freedom like almost all other religions. Arab nation should teach and instill ethics in the beginning of education system in the first grade throw the elementary school with an emphasis on it in secondary school and the beginning of the university.²³

Lastly, there is a need for discipline and to teach social mores to children at an early age. There is no doubt that the human desire sometimes has negative emotions that must be controlled, like anger, stinginess, and revenge. Therefore, some social events and violence occur due to the lack of the discipline.²⁴

Some Outside Factors That Lead to Violence, Terrorism and Extremism

The media plays a significant role in supporting the emergence of violence, terrorism and extremism. The media, through programs, films, news broadcasts and other channels of communication, report on events in ways that are sometime irresponsible and neglect the impacts on human minds, religious and ethical issues. If news topics were based on facts and presented in a fair and unbiased manner individuals should be able to develop the right interpretation. News presented in this manner will positively impact or at least limit the negative effects instead of being a double-edged sword.²⁵

Studies show that the international information network (Internet) has a strong impact on the increase of international terrorism. The internet facilitates dissemination of ideas and information between the parties involved worldwide and is open and accessible by all groups to join. These outlets can provide positive and negative information. In addition, daily newspapers, photos, and articles which are published as a result of false freedom encourage terrorism. All this helps the emergence of behaviors are that considered unreasonable, illogical and exaggerated terrorist reaction.

Secondly, bad companions are one of the most important social factors in recruiting members to terrorist organizations. There is no doubt that a friend or coteries play a significant role in the tendency towards violence, terrorism and extremism.

Coteries have a strong impact in the presence of weak personality with the absence of the family role in the community. They also allow the individual to free himself of all rules and express his opinion freely, even if his ideas were against the societies norms. This environment is considered as an outlet for individuals to discharge their internal depression in ways not approved by the community.

Finally, the financial support terrorist groups have been able to gather facilitates and provides the means to purchase the tools of violence. Such financing also helps to take advantage of the technology terrorists can sue to create fear and panic among the people. There is no doubt that money is the main generator for all terrorist activities²⁶

Recommendations to Find a Solution to Middle East violence

- 1. Middle East authorities should open all channels of communication among people to include television, radio, newspapers, and public lectures. Mosques need to be one of the central channels of communications. Intellectuals and moderates who fully understand the true Religion of Islam need to explain the concepts and thoughts on which the religion is based. This will help to clarify misunderstandings and help prevent opportunists from increasing the membership in extremist movements, by eliminating those who espouse violence in their sermons. Such steps will not result in successful implementation without the serious involvement of the state authority. This will definitely lead to the clarification between the true meaning of Islam and radical extremism.
- 2. Knowing the true freedom in Islam. Freedom in Islam is guaranteed, but with control. While there is freedom, it does not allow individuals to express their personal beliefs that are different from the true meaning of Islam or provide a wrong interpretation to the public through various channels of communications. Extremism favors an overly strict interpretation of Islam. On the other end of the spectrum are those who are overly secular in their interpretation of governance in the Islamic world. It is my recommendation that the world needs to take a centrist or moderate view between these two extremes in order to prosper and end the turmoil throughout the region.

- 3. Security will remain an essential element of any course of action in the region.

 Security is required to meet the challenge in the beginning before it escalates, but along with taking sufficient security measures two additional areas must be addressed:
- a. There is a need to evaluate extremists on a case by case method. We must determine whether their actions were motivated by mental illness or illegal or criminal intent. Those who are mentally ill, the state needs to treat; those driven by purely illegal motives need to be punished for their actions. The patient needs to be treated in the hospital while the criminal shall be punished with imprisonment.
- b. Many actions from extremists in the world are driven by what they believe, and wrong behaviors can come out of wrong beliefs. To resolve the issues we cannot use force, physical or psychological pressure to change one's beliefs. This will lead to only a short term result and that person will revert to old ways when the appropriate opportunity arises. This situation can be treated only through meaningful dialogue and education. To be successful we will need to choose qualified well respected individuals who are skilled at the art of communication and persuasion to re-educate and convert those extremists who have been led down the wrong path of Islamic beliefs.
- 4. All efforts need to be focused on the solutions to social problems. One of the keys is that the solution must be accomplished through utilizing the communication channel of mosques and imams because they are accepted and respected and seen as truthful by the people. Every state wants to remedy these problems properly, and these remedies need to come from the religious leaders first and not the official authorities to be effective.

- 5. We must strive to facilitate and provide the opportunity for youths to get married and form strong family units. Young married couples should be assisted through direct financial assistance, education and other welfare programs. Additionally, the government in conjunction with mosques should develop and implement a national campaign that urges youth to marry early and create strong families that are well educated. This will help to reduce the number of idle males and give direction to youths which in turn will reduce the ability of terrorist organizations to recruit them.
- 6. Governments need to develop programs that can harness the energy of youth, especially from the age of 14 to 30 years, and give them an outlet to work and become valued assets of the community. These programs need to provide meaningful training and work for individuals to prepare them for life, but just as important, give them self-worth. In addition to training and work, the government needs to develop programs that provide a social outlet such as camps, sports, and other activities that could be utilized to communicate to youths the importance of community and society in developing a prosperous future for themselves and their children. This should be encouraged through charity fund-raising and distributing alms to the poor and needy and through sports, youth trips and camps. Youthful energy that is unfilled in good work is filled with bad behaviors and should be taken into account in developing activities for the youth.
- 7. Find a religious scholar to the community who could be consulted and where needed make decisions acceptable to all in the case of disputes.
- 8. Develop a program to ensure preachers can spread their knowledge and reach out to all levels of the community especially the youth sector. Furthermore, develop a program where the government allots a moderate preacher to provide legitimate and

true information to further knowledge and to mitigate events in each region. This individual needs to be accepted by young people, to act as reference to them in order remove any suspicion in the young people minds.

9. Recognize that nothing could easily influence people, but religion.²⁷

Summary

Terrorism is a global phenomenon, driven by distortive ideology and experienced by many nations. The world is suffering as a result of this phenomenon. Terrorism is being used as a political tool by some groups. Unfortunately the target for the recent violence is innocent people who just want to live a peaceful life. The terrorists, who commit horrible crimes when they kill innocent people, destroy property and demolish social infrastructure, are trying to influence the world in a negative way.

This influence has led to a blending of social and political concepts of terrorism that spread at the end of the last century. Specialists have divided it into two categories. First, there is state terrorism practiced by countries that terrorize their own people or the people under occupation by outside forces. Second, there is terrorism practiced by political organizations using false justifications. The international community is not able to agree on a single definition for terrorism, and all organizations that have been convicted or charged with terrorist activities have always justified their activities by using pretexts such as a liberation war, a struggle against the occupation or self-defense.

The Middle East has had enough of terrorism and must converge to reject and condemn terrorist actions. The word terrorism needs to be defined as murder, intimidation, abduction, vandalism, robbery, battery, instability and intimidation.

Terrorism is both a phenomenon and social issue that has imposed itself on the world stage, and requires in-depth analysis. It is a vital issue affecting the community as well as a result of an imbalance in community organizations. Terrorism's effects are not limited to a specific individual or identifiable group; its impact goes beyond to include the entire community. In this vein, counter-terrorism legislation and security measures are not enough in the face of this social evil, which must be confronted and combated through transnational educational institutions. Education must have a prominent role and be effective in providing the agreed values, attitudes, information, experiences in helping develop students' abilities and skills. Education must start with the family and transcend through the school system.²⁸

In the end, the Islamic world should look to solve its own problems before blaming the West. The Islamic world should start today to fix its political and education systems and address social problems. The Islamic world should get together and find the correct interpretation for the holy Quran, understand it well, and practice what the holy book states. This will eliminate an excuse by others to divide and attack any Islamic country. The Islamic world should understand all the causes of terrorism and try to remedy and use all the means available to treat the Muslim people who have ideological problems. The Islamic world has to take care of the future generations so they can have a good life. The Arab-Israel conflict has to be solved peacefully; it has taken too much time, money, and life. It is one of the main causes of violence in Middle East. The continued occupation of Arab territory fosters violence and some groups will use this as a pretext for more violence. Therefore, it is imperative all parties possess the good will and sit together for serious peace talks under the patronage of the international community to

attain peace and bring a good future for the region and its people. But the Islamic world should first solve its own problems as it starts to open a dialogue with Israel.

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